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BOOK REVIEWS

In this section are reviews of new, or particularly important and interesting books in the fields of natural science. Books dealing with botany or kindred subjects should be sent to the Editor, the University of Notre Dame. *All other books for review* should be sent to Carroll Lane Fenton, at the Walker Museum, the University of Chicago, Ill. Publishers are requested to furnish prices with books.

PRINCIPLES OF ANIMAL BIOLOGY. By A. Franklin Shull. McGraw-Hill Book Co. \$3.50.

It is a rare thing for anyone to write a textbook that is revolutionary in its material; it is still rarer for any one to produce a book that demands an entire revision of the teaching of a time-honored subject in natural science. For while we are willing to teach new material, we insist on teaching it the oldest way, and efforts looking toward a change are whole-heartedly discouraged.

But the teacher's worship of what is old seems to possess little weight with Dr. Shull and his associates. He has written a book that, if accepted, calls for an almost complete change in the teaching of zoology. Cutting, slicing, and peering through microscopes all have their place, but according to Dr. Shull, that place is far away from general courses in zoology. He believes that a general knowledge of the larger facts of zoology are more essential than a knowledge of the muscles of a frog's leg; that zoogeography deserves more space in a text than does taxonomy. He begins his work with a chapter on the general divisions of zoology, and a history of the science; he ends it with a glossary of the terms that students are apt to have difficulty with. Between those two chapters are others dealing with such subjects as the morphology of cells, the processes of cell division, physiology of organs, reproduction and breeding habits, embryology, genetics and evolution, ecology, and paleontology. Every chapter is complete in itself; it may be read as well separately as with the balance of the book. Together, these chapters make up a volume that is even more remarkable than Dr. Cockerell's "Zoology." The rebellion of Mr. Shull is complete; he strikes out for himself, and it must be acknowledged that he has gone a long distance. As I read his book I have but one regret—that I do not have the privilege of taking courses under its author's instruction.

C. L. F.

PARACELSUS. By John Maxson Stillman. The Open Court Co.

Theophrastus von Hohenheim, or as he is more commonly called, Paracelsus, illustrates well the independence, the self-confidence, the

boldness of thought, and the painful confusion of new and old that characterized the time of the later Renaissance. He was born the year following the discovery of America, and lived a life quite as stormy and almost as significant as that of the famed Columbus. The latter made a great discovery and brought about a great revolution in world affairs, industry, and politics; Paracelsus was a not less striking reformer in science, elementary medicine and chemistry.

Dr. Stillman's book is not offered as any new contribution to the history of a man who has been alternately praised and denounced for hundreds of years. It is a presentation in English of the essence of the long or relatively inaccessible German treatises, and papers, as well as a critical examination of attitudes and philosophy as shown in Paracelsus' own writings. The struggle with the antiquated medical men, the brief stay at the University in Basel, and the wanderings in various armies are presented only as a background for the later work of the revolutionary physician. The chemistry of Paracelsus is reviewed, and some space is devoted to the forged works that were for many years supposed to have antedated the great man's contested discoveries. But to the general reader, who must be considered along with the specialist in medicine, the early life of this reformer, his character and beliefs regarding his profession, and the manner in which he died are more interesting than his exact contributions to either medicine or chemistry. Most of us have known of him as a name; the biographical part of Mr. Stillman's book helps us to know of Paracelsus as a man.

C. L. F.

COMPANIONS, FEATHERED, FURRED, AND SCALED. By C. H. Donald, F. Z. S. John Lane Company. \$2.00.

Mr. Donald is one of those fortunate people who are able to "make friends" with birds and other animals of all sorts and dispositions. This ability, aided by a residence in India which allowed him to study first-hand the rich wild life of the Himalayas, has enabled him to write a book that is both interesting and instructive. Mr. Donald makes pets of his animals; he does not "train" them or shut them up in cages. Therefore his accounts have more value than mere comments on circus animals, or on those confined in zoological gardens.

The "companions" range from pythons to eagles; from monkeys to bears. And from the first chapter, telling the adventure of Bhaloo, a bear cub, to the last, which gives the life story of a little fox, the book is full of interesting natural history material. The numerous first-rate photographs of the animals which have at one time or another come into Mr. Donald's possession add much to the value of the book.

C. L. F.